

estimates that clean-up will cost between \$32 billion and \$72 billion.

The only mining law reform bill Congress has sent to the President in recent years was part of the fiscal year 1995 budget reconciliation bill that President Clinton properly vetoed in December 1995, for reasons well beyond the scope of the 1872 mining law. That reform proposal, which all of the longtime mining reform advocates opposed, would have reserved a 5 percent "net proceeds" royalty on future mining operations on public lands. But, it also provided so many exorbitant and absurd loopholes that most mines could have avoided paying the royalty. Therefore, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scored the royalty at just \$12 million over seven years as compared to nearly \$420 million attributed to the royalty provision passed on a 3-1 margin by the House in 1993.

Today, I am introducing three bills, in addition to Rep. Nick Rahall's (D-WVA) comprehensive bill to reform the Mining Law of 1872. These three bills, identical to ones that former Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR) and I introduced in the 105th Congress would:

(1) Impose a 5 percent net smelter return royalty on all hard rock minerals mined from public lands, eliminate patents, and permanently extend the rental fee,

(2) Impose a sliding scale net proceeds reclamation fee on all hard rock minerals mined from lands that have been removed from the public domain under the 1872 Mining Law, and

(3) Close the depletion allowance loophole on all lands subject to the 1872 Mining Law. Reservation of a royalty would mean that Americans would receive a fair return on the extraction of hard rock minerals from public lands.

Imposition of a reclamation fee on lands removed from the public domain under the 1872 law would give the public a fair return on the value of hard rock minerals mined from those lands. All these revenues would be used to clean up the environment disaster we inherited from past mining operators.

The majority refused to even hold hearings on these bills during the last Congress, instead focusing on crushing Clinton administration policies that would have made miners accountable for their actions and decreased the level of environmental destruction that accompanies mining activities. I therefore call on Chairman Young to allow these bills a fair and open hearing this year.

Now is the time to act. The Federal royalty base is already small and is rapidly diminishing as mining operations go to patent. The GAO believes that nearly \$65 billion worth of gold, silver, copper, and certain other hard rock minerals still exist in economically recoverable reserves on western Federal lands. But, the longer Congress delays, the smaller the royalty base will become as ever more mining conglomerates push through the patent process.

Mining reform is long overdue. The effort to update the 1872 law has enjoyed vigorous, bipartisan support in the House of Representatives for many years. Public opinion—even in Western states with large mining activities—is strongly in favor of mining reform that includes a royalty that raises substantial revenues to be used for abandoned mine clean-up. Four out of five Americans support mining reform, according to a 1994 nationwide bipartisan sur-

vey. In 1994, the House and Senate came close during a Conference to crafting an acceptable agreement only to be derailed by the threat of a filibuster during the last days of the session. The mining industry and a few Senators have repeatedly blocked reform from enactment during the last decade.

The 106th Congress should impose a reasonable net smelter royalty on hard rock minerals extracted from public lands, dedicating the revenues to cleaning up abandoned mine sites, permanently extend the \$100 rental fee, and close the depletion allowance loophole.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY S. GOVERNALE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Anthony S. Governale, one of San Mateo County's most dedicated public servants. Tony passed away on December 29, 1998, leaving behind a legacy of community service that made a significant difference in the lives of innumerable Bay Area residents. He will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him and all of us who benefited from his lifetime of public service.

Many people talk about the frustration of politics and about the inability of a single individual to effect change through government. Tony Governale's life stands as a strong rebuttal to these skeptics. Tony did not merely talk about building a more vibrant America for his children and grandchildren—he volunteered his time and his considerable energy and his insight on behalf of political candidates who shared his progressive beliefs. He masterminded a number of important campaigns, and he served for some time as the president of the San Mateo County Democratic Council.

When his reputation as a community leader provided him with the opportunity to assist his beloved City of San Bruno in an official capacity, he seized that challenge. Tony served as a member of the City Council for eight years, and for two years of that time he served as mayor. He was a key figure in guiding San Bruno through a decade of growth and progress. His commitment to performing his public responsibilities, as well as his tireless efforts to reach out and involve the entire community in the decisions of its government, made him one of San Mateo County's most beloved citizens.

Tony's public service was by no means confined to politics and government. As the longtime executive director of the Daly City-Colma Chamber of Commerce, he used his organizational skills and persuasive talents to foster the development of one of California's most dynamic business areas. He was instrumental in the establishment of the San Mateo County Health Center Foundation, which raises funds to improve the lives of patients at the San Mateo County General Hospital. He served on the governing board of the Shelter Network of San Mateo County, on the Board of Directors of the San Mateo County Fair, and as an active participant in many other civic organizations throughout the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the extraordinary life and

accomplishments of Tony Governale and in extending condolences to his wife, Helen, and his fine family. It is my hope that Tony's family can take comfort in the realization that his important contributions to our community are an outstanding and a fitting memorial to him for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day with my colleague, Mr. HOYER, to introduce the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. Mr. Speaker, this bill is identical to legislation sponsored by Senator Glenn and THOMPSON that passed the Senate in the unanimous consent in the waning hours of last Session.

Mr. Speaker, I often hear from state and local governments and constituents involved in non-profit organizations who, in an attempt to gain assistance for many worthy programs, are frustrated by the miles of red tape, regulations and duplicative procedures they encounter. Applying for the grant is not the only problem. The administrative and reporting requirements attached to certain grants often makes these entities question the cost effectiveness of entering the program in the first place.

To address this concern we have introduced this short and straight forward legislation. It requires relevant Federal agencies, with oversight from OMB, to develop plans within 18 months that do the following: streamline application, administrative, and reporting requirements; develop a uniform application (or set of applications) for related programs; develop and expand the use of electronic applications and reporting via the Internet; demonstrate interagency coordination in simplifying requirements for cross-cutting programs; and set annual goals to further the purposes of the Act. Agencies would consult with outside parties in the development of the plans. Plans and follow-up annual reports would be submitted to Congress and the Director and could be included as part of other management reports required under law.

In addition to overseeing and coordinating agency activities, OMB would be responsible for developing common rules that cut across program and agency lines by creating a release form that allows grant information to be shared by programs. The bill sunsets in five years and The National Academy for Public Administrators (NAPA) would submit an evaluation just prior to its sunset.

The bill builds on past efforts to improve program performance through the Government Performance Results Act and to reduce Federal burdens through the Paperwork Reduction & Unfunded Mandates Acts. It has been endorsed by state and local organizations such as the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER and the other original cosponsors for joining me in this effort and I encourage my colleagues to join in support of this bipartisan effort.